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WHEN SHOULD YOUR CHILD SEE AN ORTHODONTIST?

Common childhood tooth problems and
when to seek a specialist opinion




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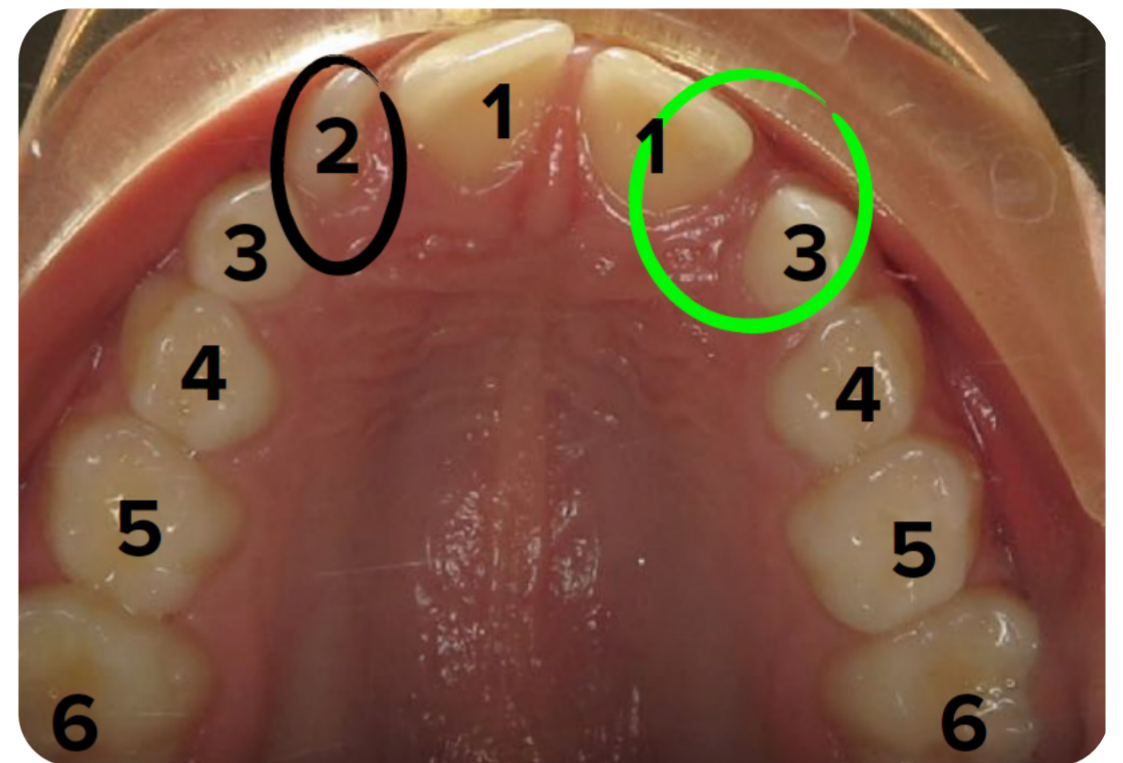
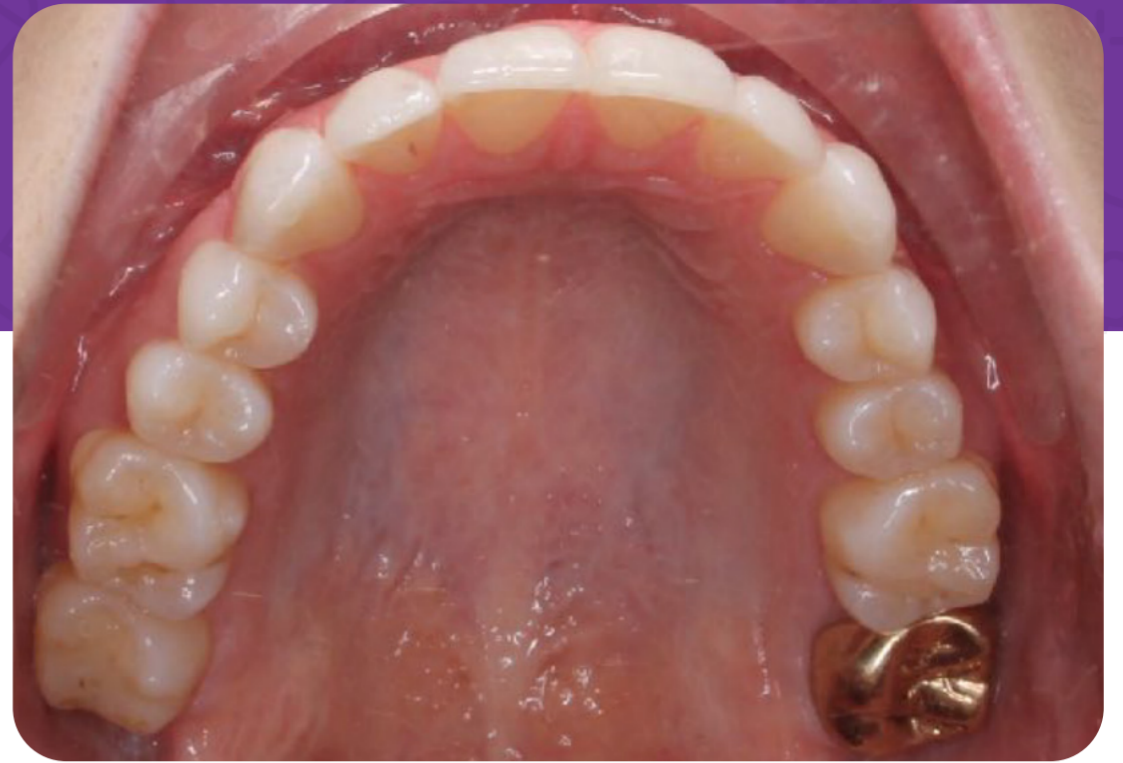


What is The Right Age?

- The Canadian and American Associations of Orthodontists recommend that every child see an orthodontist by the age of 7.
- Problems can be easily identified at this age and a plan can be developed for when treatment should begin, if needed.
- The vast majority of 7 year-olds do not require orthodontics until all their permanent teeth are erupted (age 10-14).
- We will illustrate in the following pages which teeth conditions should be treated in young children (age 7-10) and which can and/or should wait until the teen years.
- This E-Book is only a guide
- Please consult with your family dentist or local orthodontist to find out what is right for your child.

Crowded Teeth

- The top photo shows all grown-up teeth in the mouth.
- In the bottom photo - the black circle shows where a permanent tooth is coming in. The green circle shows where the matching tooth on the other side is supposed to fit to fit.



- When there is not enough room in the mouth for all of the teeth it is known as crowding.
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- Mild crowding does not need to be addressed early.
- Moderate and severe crowding may benefit from early treatment. A discussion with your orthodontist is warranted.
- This is an example of severe crowding.



Large Spaces Between The Teeth

- Large spaces generally indicate that the teeth are smaller than the jaw or that the jaw is bigger than the teeth.
- This only needs to be corrected early if it is bothering the child or if the teeth are in such a position that they are at risk of trauma (pushed quite far forward in the mouth).

Underbite (Lower Teeth in Front of Upper Teeth)



- When all of the lower front teeth are in front of the upper front teeth it is called an underbite.
- This is usually a combination of a tooth and bone problem.
- Correction of this well before puberty (age 7-8) can reduce the chances of jaw surgery or permanent tooth extraction in the future.
- A visit to the orthodontist is highly recommended by age 7 when this is present.



Overjet

(Top Teeth Too Far in
of Bottom Teeth)



- The top photo is of a perfect bite. Notice that the top teeth are just slightly in front of the bottom teeth.

- In the bottom photo the upper teeth are too far in front of the lower teeth.
- The bite should fit tight like a zipper. The spaces in the lower show that the fit is incorrect.
- This type of bite is best corrected during the growth spurt of puberty.
- In girls that is generally ages 10-13 and boys ages 12-15.

Overbite

(Teeth Overlap Too Much Vertically)



- When we bite our teeth together, both the upper and lower teeth should be seen (top photo).



- When the upper teeth cover too much of the lower teeth this is called a deep bite or excessive overbite (bottom photo)
- Unless this is causing pain, it should be treated when all permanent teeth are present as all of the teeth need to move to get a stable correction.

Openbite (Teeth Do Not Overlap Enough)



- The lower photo shows an example of an open bite.

- In open bites, the teeth in the front do not overlap and therefore can not function the way they were intended.
- Causes vary, but can be from habits such as thumb, finger or blanket sucking.
- Open bites can also be caused by abnormal bone growth.
- Timing of treatment varies widely depending on the cause.
- A visit to the orthodontist is required.

Crossbite

(Teeth on the Wrong Side in the Bite)



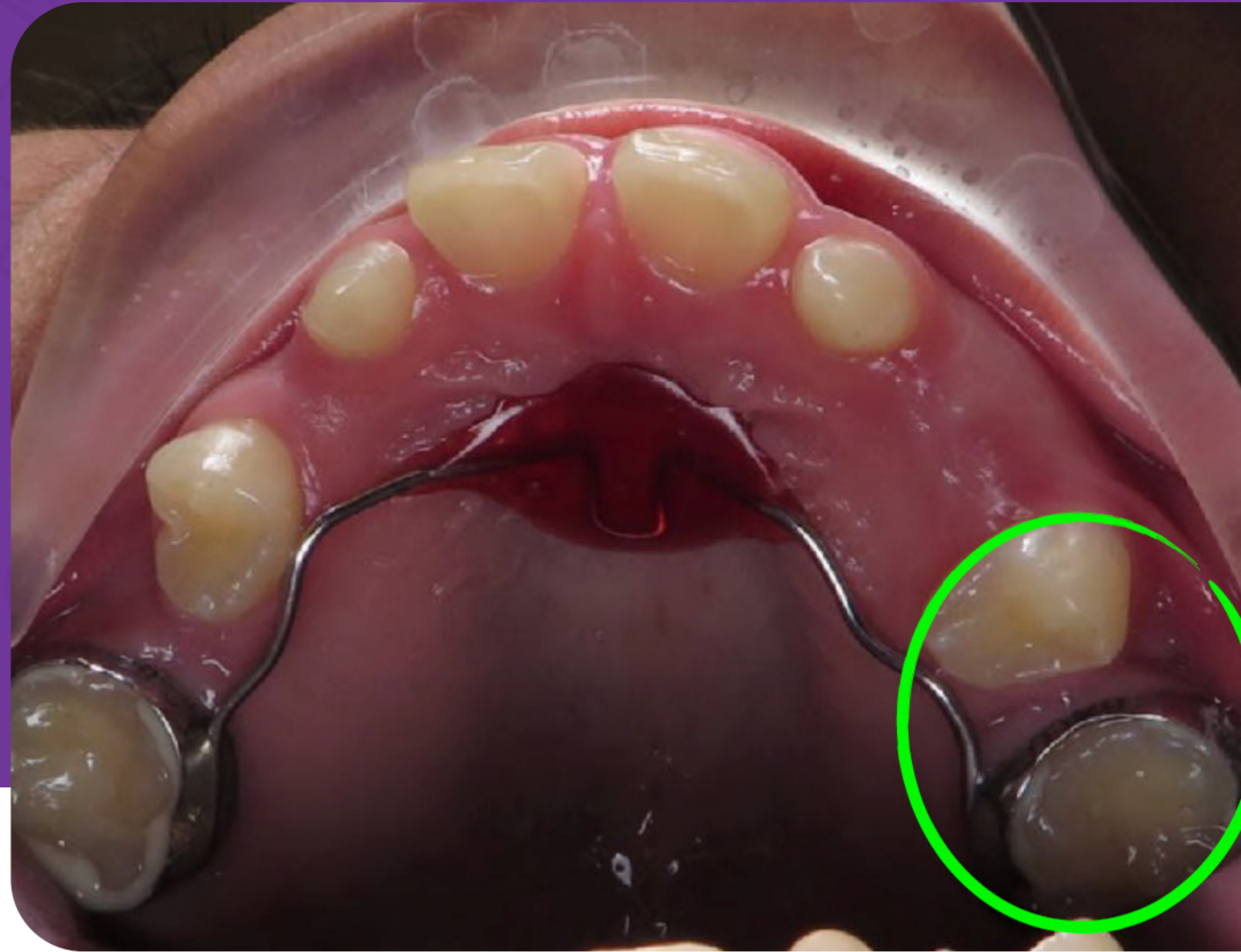
- The top photo shows all of the top teeth sitting just outside of all of the bottom teeth - this is correct.
- The bottom photo shows top teeth that are biting inside of the bottom teeth.
- When groups of teeth are on the wrong side, the issue is usually with the bone and this needs to be treated early.
- The bones of the upper jaw do not fuse until puberty so they can be adjusted very easily in most 7-10 year olds



Crossbite (Single Tooth)

- When only 1 or 2 teeth are on the wrong side (this usually happens in the front) this is a tooth problem.
- The biggest risk of leaving this is damage to the teeth (can you see the broken lower tooth) because they hit each other incorrectly.
- This should always be fixed as soon as possible to prevent damage to the teeth and supporting structures (gum recession is common).

Early Loss of Baby Teeth



- Many baby teeth in this case were lost early due to cavities.
- This appliance was put in to try to keep as much space as possible.
- The green circle shows where a tooth is supposed to fit (between the tooth with the metal band and the tooth in front)
- The tooth without space is impacted (meaning there is no space for it to come in on its own).
- Space must be created for this tooth by moving teeth or removing teeth.
- Severe cases such as this should be seen by an orthodontist.



If you are not sure whether or not your child needs an orthodontist, seek out one in your local area that does complimentary consultations.

Every orthodontist will treat differently, multiple opinions are always a good idea to find the best fit for your family.

At Impact Orthodontics in Calgary, we do free consultations **in-office or from home**. You can book online from our website linked at the right.

I hope that this E-Book was of value to you.
Please feel free to share it with anyone you like.